

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

Please replace sheet 3 of the drawings with the replacement sheet 3 attached as an Appendix herewith.

In the replacement sheet, Fig. 4 is amended to show inputs of each of the current sources 26 as being to voltage sense input circuits 27, and Fig. 5 is amended to show inputs of the control unit 36 as being to voltage sense input circuits 37.

Attachment: Amended Sheet 3/4

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

With respect to the objection to the drawings, Figs. 4 and 5 on sheet 3 of the drawings are amended to show the current sources 26 of Fig. 4 as having voltage sense input circuits 27 and to show the control unit 36 of Fig. 5 as having voltage sense input circuits 37. The specification is amended accordingly. This meets the requirement to show the voltage sensors, as recited in the claims, in the drawings, the voltage sensors being constituted by these voltage sensing input circuits of the units 26 and 36.

The claims are amended herein in the same manner as previously proposed in a response filed October 23, 2006 but not entered, as advised in the Advisory Action dated November 8, 2006.

In particular, claim 1 is amended to make it clear that the at least one voltage sensor sense power supply voltage at at least one point in the power distribution network; claim 9 is amended to recite sensing voltage of the supplied power at at least one point in the distribution network; claim 15 is amended to incorporate wording from claim 17 and to make it clear that it is a power supply voltage that is sensed. Accordingly, claim 17 is now cancelled. Consequential amendments are made in claims 2-3, 10, and 19.

The Detailed Action objects to wording in claim 9 with respect to sensing voltage "at at least one point". Similar wording is used elsewhere in the specification and claims, and is entirely correct and appropriate. Reconsideration, and consequent withdrawal, of this objection is therefore courteously requested.

In the Detailed Action, claims 1-2, 9, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Chang et al. US Patent 6,768,225. This rejection is respectfully traversed, for at least the following reasons.

Chang et al. discloses an arrangement in which power inputs 101 and outputs 106 are switched in dependence upon abnormal conditions detected by voltage and current detecting modules 102 and 105 respectively. Abnormal conditions are explained in Chang et al. at column 1, lines 15-19, and for example column 2, lines 58-59 make it clear that each switch has an ON or OFF state. Chang et al. does not disclose any regulation under normal conditions.

The present invention as claimed is clearly and patentably distinguished from Chang et al. In this respect:

Claim 1 recites that "each of the power sources is responsive to the sensed power supply voltage for supplying a regulated current or a regulated power to the power distribution network";

Claim 9 recites "regulating currents supplied by the plurality of power sources to the power distribution network in dependence upon the sensed voltage";

and Claim 15 recites "at least one power supply voltage sensor for sensing a power supply voltage at a respective point in the power distribution network for regulating the power supplied to the power distribution network from the plurality of power sources".

Thus the independent claims of this application recite that a regulated current or a regulated power is supplied to the power distribution network.

The Detailed Action contends that in Chang et al. "each of the power sources is responsive (see col. 3 lines 5-10) to the sensed voltage for supplying a regulated current or a regulated power to the power distribution network". This is not correct, and there is no such disclosure in Chang et al. Chang et al. does not disclose any regulated current or regulated power supplied to a power distribution network. Chang et al. only disclose switching on or off power inputs and outputs in response to detection of abnormal conditions, which is completely different from the present invention as claimed.

Alternatively, the Detailed Action rejects claims 1-2, 4-5, 9, 11, 16-17 and 19 under 35

U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Belson et al. US Patent 6,614,133. This rejection is respectfully traversed, for at least the following reasons.

As discussed above, each of the independent claims of this application recites that a regulated current or a regulated power is supplied to the power distribution network. Belson et al. do not disclose this. In Belson et al., individual power sources are switched between operating and standby modes, depending upon monitored output currents, for improved efficiency. The output current supplied to the power distribution network, or loads, is monitored for this purpose, but is not regulated. The total output current supplied by the operating power sources in Belson et al. is the same, regardless of the number of power sources supplying that current. Consequently, in Belson et al. there is no regulation of current supplied by the power sources to the power distribution network, and correspondingly there is no regulation of power (product of output voltage and output current) supplied by the power sources to the power distribution network, as required by the claims of this application.

The Detailed Action contends that Belson et al. teaches that "each of the power sources is responsive ... to the sensed voltage for supplying a regulated current or a regulated power to the power distribution network". This is not correct, and there is no such disclosure in Belson et al. In Belson et al., the power sources simply supply current to the load, without any regulation of either output current or output power.

The Detailed Action further contends that Belson et al. "teaches the power sources comprise regulated current sources as the efficiency is monitored and the supplies output controlled according to the measurement". This is not correct; in Belson et al. there is no disclosure of any such control of output current or power supplied to the power distribution network or load.

The Detailed Action further contends that Belson et al. "teaches the power sources are arranged for supplying regulated currents with different relative weights ... to the power distribution network". This is not correct. As discussed above, in Belson et al. the operating power sources supply current to the power distribution network without any regulation of either

current or power.

For at least the above reasons, neither Chang et al. nor Belson et al. anticipates the present invention as claimed.

The Detailed Action also rejects claims 4 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Chang et al., contending that "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Chang to use a regulated current source as the source in order to provide steady current to the loads".

This rejection is respectfully traversed. The present invention as claimed in claims 4 and 16 is distinct from Chang et al. for the reasons given above in relation to the independent claims, and further by the recitals in claims 4 and 16. There is no disclosure or suggestion in Chang et al. of the power sources being regulated current sources, or of any current regulation. This rejection is improperly based on hindsight from the teaching of the present invention, and is not supported by any disclosure of the applied prior art.

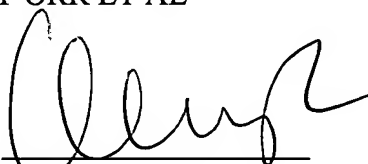
The Detailed Action also rejects the other dependent claims of this application under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Chang et al. in view of Murabayashi et al. US Patent No. 6,121,693 or Hayward et al. US patent No. 6,317,345. These further references do not make up for the deficiencies of Chang et al. as discussed above in relation to the features of the present invention as claimed in the independent claims 1, 9 and 15 of this application from which these dependent claims depend.

In particular none of these further references discloses or suggests the feature of the currents or powers from the power sources being regulated in dependence upon the sensed voltage or other parameter, as discussed above. Thus this is also not disclosed or suggested by any combination of the applied references. Accordingly, all of these dependent claims of this application are believed to be properly allowable in this application with the independent claims from which they depend, for at least the reasons given above. It is therefore believed not to be necessary to discuss these further references in detail.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that each of claims 1-7, 9-11, 13-16 and 19, retained in this application and as now amended, is properly allowable. The Applicants therefore respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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ESS/RJH/wfs/jlm

## **APPENDIX**